



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Director

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board Award Recipients for FY16

Citizen of the Year Adam Snell

As the Senior Pastor at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Kensington since 2007, **Rev. Snell** has been a driving force in the local community in helping to eradicate hunger at the local level. Through his vision for his congregation by "teaching through preaching," he devised a campaign to eliminate hunger in the church's area code of 20895 and surrounding areas, deeming it a "Hunger Free Zone." This has inspired other congregations and organizations in Montgomery County to join in the fight against hunger and help its neighbors. Rev. Snell received his Master of Divinity Graduate Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC in 2004.

Civic Association of the Year Aspen Hill Homeowners Group (AHHG)

The Aspen Hill Homeowners Group (AHHG) was created in spring 2014 as a grass roots neighborhood organization in response to a developer's plan to rezone a particular plot of land to permit a big box store that would be out of character for the Aspen Hill community. A volunteer group of residents began meeting and eventually this group formalized into the AHHG with a Steering Committee of 22 Aspen Hill residents representing a diverse population of individuals concerned about the future of their community. The Steering Committee selected **Sol Levy and Jane Salzano**, long term Aspen Hill residents, as its co-chairs. In a short amount of time, the AHHG met with the Montgomery County Planning Board staff, County Council members and the County Executive, canvassed the Aspen Hill community, knocked on hundreds of doors, and stood at shopping centers to talk to all who would listen. As a result over 2,000 signatures were obtained on a petition opposing a big box store in Aspen Hill. Members of the AHHG Steering Committee and others from the community continued to organize, i.e., providing testimony in writing and in person at multiple public hearings, meeting with elected officials, organizing a rally on the steps of the County Council Office Building (which drew media attention), staffing sidewalk information stands, and placing hundreds of lawn signs. In addition, a web site was created for the community to access updates on hearings and other community news. In short order a large civic minded organization had been forged where there was not much of one before. AHHG was able to coalesce their communities through grassroots organizing, and all on a shoe string.